

"Healthy Neighborhoods are places where the community manages the day to day life of the neighborhood to successful outcomes. They are places where it makes sense to invest time, energy, and money."

- Charles Buki

Looking Good Greater Norview

January 2013

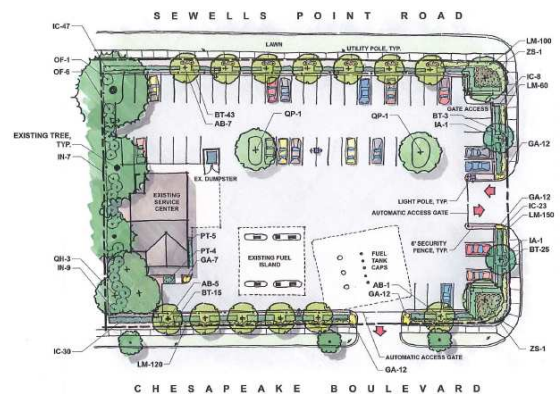
Neighborhood Spotlight

Congratulations Norview High School on another award. Norview was named one of 10 Breakthrough Schools in the United States for outstanding efforts at improving student achievement. The award comes through the 2013 MetLife Foundation-National Association of Secondary School Principals Breakthrough Schools Program. "This year's class of Breakthrough Schools represents how an uncompromised focus on the things that really matter leads to sustained school improvement," said NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti. [From the Norfolk Public Schools website]

Black and White Cabs Improvements. Black and White Cabs has submitted an application for the Commercial Façade Grant. This matching grant of up to \$25,000 is available to businesses in the Sewells Point Road business corridor.

Healthy Norview

The City sponsors an initiative to promote healthy practices like fitness, neighborhood walking, healthy eating, gardening, and controlling obesity. Many Norview residents already set a good example. The community center is busy most evenings. Residents like Rod Williams from Coronado use the group three to four times per week. Groups use the Norview track for exercise, and the Five Points Community Farm Market connects residents with local produce. To learn more or take a survey, visit www.norfolk.gov/healthynorfolk. For information on planning a neighborhood walk, email healthynorfolk@norfolk.gov or contact your Neighborhood Development Specialist, Jim Herbst (823-4210 or james.herbst@norfolk.gov).



Neighborhood Asset: Norview Community Center

Drop in any day of the week and you'll quickly see how the Norview Community Center has become one of the area's biggest assets. In between shooting hoops with Facility Manager James Mickle and a group of teens, Recreation Supervisor Raphael Roman explained that he grew up in a town that didn't have recreation centers. One of the most rewarding parts of his job is providing a safe place for kids to go and to socialize.

Tongia, who provides security, shared the same sentiment. "For many, it is a second home." She enjoys helping the kids, especially in tough times. She added, "Sometimes they ask questions that make you scratch your head."

Youth comprise a sizeable percentage of the 4,200 average patrons a month. The center has nine staff. The center also relies on volunteers from local colleges, the military, churches, and non profit organizations. They average around ten volunteers a week. Staff and volunteers offer a range of programs for ages beginning at approximately five years old through senior adults. For example, on the day of writing, NCC staffers Rafael and Chris brought a group of seniors to a Christmas concert at City Hall.



Marsha, who you'll often find answering questions and directing children here and there at the front desk, has enjoyed being a part of children's lives as they grow up. Kids who were five when she started are now ten. She also recognizes that helping youth helps parents in the community.

When the center opened, Mrs. Hoots is quoted as telling WAVY 10, "We will develop this place to keep the kids off the street." Thanks to dedicated staff, volunteers, City Council, citizens (like Mrs. Hoots and Walter Dickerson) who made the center happen, Norview Community Center is doing just that and more.



Norview Community Center at a Glance

Opened January 2009
\$7 million to construct
27,000 square feet

Rooms: gymnasium, fitness room, dance room, game room, multi-purpose room, computer lab, library, art room with kilns.

Program Examples: Sewing, Stained Glass, Pottery, Sculpting, Computer Classes, Zumba, Jazz Dance, Creative Dance, School Age Study Hall, Soccer, Teen Cuisine, Passport to Manhood, Senior Club, etc.

Over 20 groups use the facility including T.O.P.S (taking off pounds sensibly), six civic leagues, N.A.A.C.P, Norview Kickers Soccer Club, three local basketball organizations, Girl Scouts, and N.A.R.F (a retired military organization).